

This is my way of giving that wonderful experience to my customers—a sort of 'chariventure' and every little bit helps," she said.

The FFP donor cards will be handed out at the store as well as upcoming charity events. The card is the size of a credit card and fits fashionably into a wallet.

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### Local gemologist represents Capital District at first ever "World of Gems Conference"



Burke

If you've always wanted to know more about those colorful baubles in your jewelry box, look no further than local gem expert, and Graduate Gemologist, Diane Burke.

Burke is pleased to have represented the Capital District at the first ever "World of Gems Conference" Chicago, co-hosted recently by Gemworld International and AGTA-GTC American Gem Trade Assoc. - Gemological Testing Center. Important topics covered at the conference included: Origins, Identification, Varieties, Treatments, and Pricing of Rubies, Sapphires, Emeralds, and Pearls.

One of 150 attendees worldwide, Burke joined industry experts to compare the latest data on gem-

stones, with emphasis on identification and characteristics, and to discuss current gem-related issues.

"Because new treatments are emerging in the jewelry market, it's imperative as a gemologist to keep updated in order to properly identify the gemstones I am appraising and in turn convey accurate information to the public," Burke said.

Burke attended a class following the conference in which only twelve participants were accepted. Taught by renowned gem expert Dr. Lore Kiefert, also director of the AGTA-GTC, this class featured a hands-on workshop for rubies and sapphires, and sessions included: sources, deposits, inclusions indicative to the source, advanced gemology, synthetics and examination of rubies and sapphires pertaining to the aforementioned topics.

According to Burke, "Without a proper gem identification, you can't assign a proper value. Ruby and sapphire are mined in the countries of Burma, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Africa, Australia, North and South America. Every gemstone has inclusions that are inherent to that gemstone and also to the country of origin."

"I learned how to separate and identify inclusions in ruby and sapphire that will allow me to determine, with a higher degree of accuracy, the country of origin and also if the gemstone was treated in some fashion. This identification not only helps with value, but gives the client some history on their family heirloom. Having specimens on hand and working with the experts in this field who examine these gems on a daily basis, was especially thrilling for me," she added.

Burke is the principal/owner of A+ Associates in Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany located at Frank Adams Jewelers. Ms. Burke is a Graduate Gemologist (GIA) and is a member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers (NAJA). Ms. Burke conducts appraisals "while you watch" and by appointment at 518.438.1512 or

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